

MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS

No. 222-M

August 26, 1994

Secretary of Defense William J. Perry announced today that the Department of Defense will make *ex gratia* payments to each of the families of the 11 foreign nationals killed in the April 14, 1994 accidental shoot-down of two U.S. Army Black Hawk UH-60 helicopters.

Secretary Perry decided to make the payments in recognition of the unique circumstances related to the aircraft accident which resulted in the deaths of 26 members of the Combined Task Force. Such payments are extremely rare. The *ex gratia* payments are not obligated by U.S. statute or international law, but are a humanitarian gesture made solely at the discretion of the Secretary of Defense.

Payments of \$100,000 will go to the families of the British, Turkish and French military members killed in the accident. Additionally, the families of five Kurdish workers employed by the U.S. Government will also receive a death benefit from the Department of Labor. However, since that payment will be less than \$100,000, the Department of Defense will augment the death benefit to equal the \$100,000 being given to the survivors from the foreign military officers' families.

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